

What is Claimed:

1. In a data communications system, a data link layer maintenance system that is operational in an ISDN Access Node and that executes the LAP-D protocol, for maintaining an existing data link layer communication session with a terminal equipment active while the terminal equipment executes a software reset operation, comprising:

data link layer state means, responsive to the initiation of a software reset operation in said terminal equipment, for forcing said terminal equipment into a predetermined active data call connection state; and

state maintenance means for exchanging call connection signals with said terminal equipment to maintain said terminal equipment into a predetermined active data call connection state.

2. The data link layer maintenance system of claim 1 wherein said data link layer state means comprises:

link session transmission means for transmitting an DL-ESTABLISH indication primitive of said LAP-D protocol to a layer 3 of the LAP-D protocol to maintain a stable call connection.

3. The data link layer maintenance system of claim 2 wherein said state maintenance means comprises:

RNR signal transmission means for transmitting an RNR (F=1) signal of said LAP-D protocol to said terminal equipment while the software reset operation is executing.

4. The data link layer maintenance system of claim 3 further comprising:

reset means, responsive to the completion of execution of said software reset operation, for disabling said RNR signal transmission means.